METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

60,000 pilgrims to

perform Hajj this yr

Draft Hajj policy to be placed at

next cabinet meet

draft Hajj policy which would be

Shahjahan yesterday said this while

presiding over a meeting at the

ministry to finalise the Hajj policy for

The meeting was told that 60,000

pilgrims would be sent to perform

Hajj this year under public and

Ministry of Civil Aviation has pro-

posed 1,307.65 US dollar for each

for airfare. Last year it was 950 US

Mahmudur Rahman said the

private management.

five years to be effected from 2006.

State Minister for Religious

placed at the next cabinet meeting.

India keen on early settlement of boundary-related issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India is keen on an early settlement of all boundary-related issues with Bangladesh in accordance with the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974, said Indian Minister of State for External Affairs EAhamed yesterday

A total of 6.1 km of the international border between India and Bangladesh in three sectors --Daikhata-56 (1.5 km in West Bengal), Belonia (1.6 km in Tripura) and Lathitilla-Dumabari (3 km in Assam) -- remains undemarcated, he told the Rajya Sabha

sures to protect Mehendigani from river erosion.

Prof Shamser Ali

Ahsanullah Gold

Medal Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

gets Khanbahadur

Prof Dr M Shamser Ali, an eminent

nuclear scientist and Islamic

scholar, was awarded Khanbahadur

Ahsanullah Gold Medal Award 2004

educationist and writer, gave away

the medal and certificate to Dr Shamser Ali for his outstanding

contribution to popularising Islam

and science to the common people.

Shamser Ali said science has

advanced a lot in medical and

technology sectors but Kashfi

(spiritual) world can't be explained

we see but can't explain beyond that.

"Everything in the world is the document of Allah but we don't get

meaning of these documents all the

time, when we get the meaning we

devote ourselves to Allah very

'Khanbahadur Ahsanullah's views to

Sufism' Prof Dr Shah Kawsar

department of Dhaka University said

the essence of Islam is Sufism and

the essence of Sufism is the love of

Mission, the function was also

addressed by National Prof MR

Khan. Dr ARM Ali Haider of Dhaka

University, and Chief Executive of

advisor to the caretaker government

and chairman of the mission, pre-

Kazi Fazlur Rahman, former

Dr Shamser Ali is the 13th recipi-

Earlier, National Prof Dr Md

Ibrahim, National Prof Syed Ali

Ahsan, National Prof Dewan Md

Azrof. Prof Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud

and Prof Dr Sirajul Islam won the

JUJA anniversary

Jahangirnagar University

Journalists Association (JUJA) will

celebrate its 33rd anniversary on

daylong programmes including

rally, seminar, reunion, farewell and

have been requested to register by

For registration and more infor-

mation, all have been asked to

contact the following addresses:

Abdal Ahmed, chief reporter, the

Daily Amar Desh. Mobile-

011883958; Sarwar Hossain, chief

reporter, the Daily Manabjamin,

Mobile-0191347810; Kamrul Haq

Tuhin, research officer, P. I .B.

Mobile-0175019426; Saiful Islam

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha

(BSS), Mobile-011810995;

Hadiujzaman Shourav, president,

JUJA, Mobile 0188262868;

Alauddin Ahmed, secretary, JUJA,

Mobile-0176358173.

On the occasion, JUJA will hold

The former members of JUJA

August 18, says a press release.

the mission Kazi Ragibul Alam.

sided over the function.

on Aug 18

cultural function.

ent of the award.

Organised by Dhaka Ahsania

Presenting a keynote paper on

much," Dr Shamser said.

He said science can explain what

with science.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr

Md Ferdaous Khan, a noted

at a function in the city yesterday.

The state minister said two Joint Boundary Working Groups were set up to resolve all pending issues relating to the implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement in 2001, which met twice -- in July 2001 and March 2002, according to a press release of the Press Information Bureau of the Ministry of External Affairs posted on a website.

Replying to a question, the state minister said that during the second meeting of the Joint Boundary working Group in New Delhi, India had offered a composite package to Bangladesh for the demarcation of the pending segments of the inter-

The government of India is awaiting a response from the Bangladesh, he added

The issue was also discussed in the Foreign Office consultations held in June when the two sides agreed to continue discussions to expedite the completion of the demarcation of the land boundary.

It was decided to resume meetings of the Joint Boundary Working Groups (JBWG) to consider the boundary-related

> dollar. The airfare would be increased due to price hike in jet fuel. But the decision about raising of the airfare was not finalised at the The meeting decided to finalise it after evaluation of the Hajj airfare of the neighbouring countries and

transportation of the Hajj pilgrims. It was also apprised that green (A) and blue (B) will be used as the residential category in Makkah instead of A and B as it was followed

Keraniganj JCD leader

killed in factional feud

what measures they have taken for

This year house rent at the green The government has formulated a category has been fixed at 2,800 Saudi riyal and 1,800 Saudi riyal for the blue category. The distance of the residences from the Herem Affairs Mosharef Hossain Sharif will be 800 and 1,300 meters respectively. The private pilgrim operators also have been directed

to rent houses in the same district.

In the green category, the possible total cost of a Hajj pilgrim has been fixed at Tk 1,48,553 and in the green category Tk 1,31,553. The time limit for submitting a Hajj application is September 6 under the government management while September 20 under the private. The time limit may be extended for one month if necessary, the meeting

Religious Affairs Secretary M Rafiqul Islam and high officials of Ministry of Health, Foreign Affairs and Civil Aviation and Tourism, acting Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman Mahmudur Rahman, President of Haj Association of Bangladesh (HAB) M Abdus Shakur, Sonali Bank officials and Hajj officials attended the



PBCP cadre

in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A top cadre of outlawed Purba

Banglar Communist Party (PBCP)

was killed in Meherpur early vester-

Tarig Raj, 36, of village Bathanpara

under Gangni upazila.

He was identified as Beltu alias

According to police, an accused

in 10 cases including six for murder,

Beltu had been absconding since last one year in fear of reprisals from

A gang of outlawed Janajuddho

stormed into the house of Beltu at

about 2:00am and dragged him out

and shot him at point blank. He died

They took Beltu to a nearby road

Police rushed to the spot in the

One Uttam Kumar introducing

imself as a top ranking Janajuddho

morning and sent the body to

Meherpur General Hospital for

postmortem

killed

Renowned journalist ABM Musa gives away TIB Investigative Journalism Award to Selim Zahid of the daily Samakal and Shakil Ahmed of ATN Bangla at a roundtable organised by the Transparency International Bangladesh at the National Press Club yesterday. Prof Muzaffer Ahmad and Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid are also seen.

Abducted businessman of Dhaka rescued in Rajshahi

Light to moderate rain likely

gusty wind is likely at most places over the country till 6:00pm today.

at Sylhet and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Chittagong

Temperature

Max

31.0

32.4

31.0

31.5

33.4

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places during

Highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:30am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

24.6

26.7

26.7

26.6

the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day tempera-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Police rescued an abducted businessman of Dhaka from Rajshahi on Wednesday night.

Zahurul Islam, a mobile businessman of Shah Ali Shopping Complex at Mirpur, went missing on

Police also arrested three abductors from Durgapur upazila of the They are Shahjahan Ali, Abbas

Ali and Abu Bakkar of Keshabpur The abductors brought Zahurul

to Rajshahi alluring him to provide smuggled and low-priced mobile They snatched away Tk 3 lakh

from him and pressed him for another Tk 10 lakh in ransom. The kidnappers were arrested while they were waiting at Durgapur bus stand for Zahurul's relatives who were supposed to bring the ransom.

ture over the country.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Raishahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

The arrested persons told the police that Zahurul took Tk 8 lakh from them for sending them to Saudi Arabia, but he cheated them. So they were compelled to

abduct him to get their money back. Police were investigating the case.

JP leader stabbed to death in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader was stabbed to death by the outlaws at

Sujanagar in Pabna yesterday. Police said Raninagar union Jatiya Party President Zainal Sarder was kidnapped by the extremists on

leader claimed responsibility for the Wednesday from village Baghulpur. Police recovered his body from the bank of the river Padma vester

Humidity in

percentage

Evening

Morning

82

Dhaka dist FFs urged to work unitedly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint meeting of Dhaka District Unit Command of Bangladesh Muktijodhdha Sangsad was held on Monday at the Muktijoddha Sangsad office in the city with its convenor Alhaj Md Nurul Islam in

the chair, says a press release. Central Command Council Organising Secretary AKM Nurul Amin was the chief guest while Law, Accounts and Audit Secretary Md Nurul Islam, Office Secretary Abdul Mannan and Joint Convenor of

Dhaka unit Shawkat Ali were special guests at the meeting. Md Siddiqur Rahman, Md Abdul Barek, Md Abdur Rahman and Md Nurul Islam Khan of Dhamrai upazila command, Md Jasimuddin, Md Abdul Khalea. Md Ibrahim Khalil. Md Abdul Halim and Md Shahiahan of Savar command. Md Tofazzal Hossain, Md Khalilur Rahman and Md Shamsul Haq of Dohar command, Md Yunus Khan and Salegur Rahman of Nababganj command and Shahjahan Faruki, Abdul Awal, Alauddin Ahmed, Mohammad Shahabuddin, Abdul Matin, Sharifuddin, Shahjajal Faruki, Ibrahim Khalil and Kamal Uddin of

spoke. Speakers at the meeting urged the upazila commanders to work unitedly to strengthen the district

Keraniganj command council

Obituary

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Shamsia Begum, a social worker and mother of Hemayetullah Auranga MP, passed away due to old age complications at Apollo Hospital in the city early yesterday at the age of 82.

She is survived by four sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her first namaz-e-janaza was held on her Kathalbagan residence premises at 10:00am yesterday.

Later, her body was taken to her village home at Damudda upazila under Shariatpur district for burial.

Her qulkhwani will be held at her village home on Sunday.

Qulkhwani

director general of Bangladesh Bank (BB), Khulna office, will be held on BB Officers' Quarters premises at Banani in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Qulkhwani of Khandokar Shamsul

Huda, a freedom fighter and former

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the gulkhwani.

Huda passed away due to cardiac arrest in Khulna on July 27 at

शास समि प्रमुख्य A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was killed at Aganagar in Keraniganj yesterday following a feud between two factions of the ruling party student front over establishing supremacy in the area.

The deceased identified as Shaon Ahmed Parvez, 24, owner of a phone-shop and son of Sujat Hossain of Kadamtali village, was the vice-president of Aganagar union JCD.

Police said the criminals stabbed Parvez several times at about 11:ooam at Kadamtali. He was rushed to Mitford hospital where the attending doctors declared him

The conflict between two factions was going on for establishing supremacy over Kadamtali auto-

Naziur for talks with opposition on CG, EC reform proposals

Ruling four-party alliance partner Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP-Manzur) yesterday demanded that the government discuss with the opposition parties the reform proposals on the caretaker government and Election Commission systems.

BJP Chairman Naziur Rahman Manzur also demanded autonomy of radio and television before the next general elections. He blamed the government for its failure to control price spiral of essentials.

He was presiding over a discussion meeting marking the fourth anniversary of his party at the Engineers' Institution. Referring to the reform proposals

by the opposition parties, Naziur said: Radical reforms in the EC and electoral laws are a must. "Government should discuss the

proposals sincerely," he said adding, "Open mind dialogues with the opposition should be held in this regard.

Terming the elections as 'not a one-party job,' he suggested the government to bring radical changes in the electoral laws and demanded an independent EC.

BJP presidium member Shamim Al Mamun, Adv SM Babar Ali, Secretary General Saifur Rahman, Dhaka City unit president Tayebur Rahman and other central and front organisation leaders also spoke.

A case was lodged with Keraniganj police station in this

drug peddling.

Banglalink Expo opens in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-day-long education and career exposition fair began at Bashundhara Shopping Complex in the city yesterday.

A total of 70 institutions and companies with 120 stalls are taking part in the fair titled 5th Banglalink Fdim Expo 2005

Educational institutions from Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, China, Australia, Cyprus, Thailand, India, Ukraine, the UK and the USA have put up their stalls to attract local students.

A total of 13 local private universities are also participating in the

Educational institutions are offering special discount for the Service organisations like banks,

airlines, newspapers, and a telecom company have also put up stalls to make people aware of their ser-Some local and foreign IT insti-

tutes, student counseling centres, emigration and language institutes have also joined the fair. For the first time, ten companies have set up stalls at the fair seeking

curriculum vitae from the prospective candidates for the vacant posts of their organisations. State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon inaugu-

rated the fair as chief quest. He said existing 53 private universities are not enough to

provide higher education in a country of 14 crore popula-

There are 50 thousand private universities only in the United States, he added.

The state minister urged the authorities of private universities to

Dhaka's contribution

Babar called on the Under-Secretary at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, according to a message received here yesterdav. They discussed the current

global political situation including the new threats of terrorism. He briefed Gambari about various measures undertaken by the

support the UN in peacekeeping in Africa and elsewhere.

UN Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury government to improve the law and was present at the meetings.

upgrade their education system so that the student can get quality education staving in the country. If local institutions can provide quality education students would not go abroad for higher education. Mehrun N Islam, managing director of the Conference & Exhibition Management Services Ltd, was in the chair. Babar also underscored Bangladesh's commitment along with other nations of the world to the fight against terrorism. He also met Hedi Annabi, Assistant Secretary General for UN Peacekeeping. Hedi Annabi praised Bangladesh's leading role in UN Peacekeeping and applauded its recent contributions, including providing police peacekeepers. They discussed the possibility of Bangladesh police deployments in the Congo and in Cote d' Ivoire. Babar told Hedi Annabi that Bangladesh would continue to

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan plants a sapling on the premises of the National Press Club at the inaugural ceremony of a tree plantation programme of the club yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

banana orchard at Dighalgram

not yet returned Security Force (BSF) inquiring the identity of the bodies on Wednesday.

Bodies of 4 Bangladeshis

Rickshaw-van

could not be known. Police suspect that he was killed while he was returning home from Baneswar

sent a letter to the Indian Border

Mehendiganj Development Action Council forms a human chain in the city yesterday demanding immediate mea-

Unidentified miscreants slaughtered upazila in Rajshahi yesterday. The victim was identified as Shariful

In reply to the latter BSF asked nationality as Bangladeshi.

a rickshaw-van puller at Puthia Islam, 16, of Namajgram village. Police recovered his body from a

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia The four dead bodies of Bangladeshis recovered by the ndians on Monday are still at

puller killed

adjacent to his village. The motive behind the killing

Hashkhali police station in Nadia Sector Commander Colonel district of West Bengal. Didar of BDR told The Daily Star that Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has he could not confirm their nationality,

as they were not carrying any passports or identity cards. " As the incident took place 6km inside the Indian border we are going to propose a flag meeting to BSF," he

GF convention today

The national convention of Gono Forum will be held at the Institute of Engineers in the city at 10:00am today, says a press release.

Around 3,000 representatives from all the organising districts of the country will attend the convention. Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain will preside over the convention.

DHAKA

Conference

The national conference of Gono Forum will be held with its President Dr Kama Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Engineers' Institute Auditorium, Ramna. Time: 10.00am

Discussion

A discussion and distribution of gold medal will be held to mark the 56th birth anniversary of Sheikh Kamal with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Abahani Club premises, Dhanmondi. Time:

Convention

The inaugural ceremony of the Tenth National Annual Quality Convention, organised by Bangladesh Society for Total Quality Management, will be held. Venue: Hotel Rajmoni Isha Kha, Kakrail.

Memorial meeting A memorial meeting will be held to mark

the 30th death anniversary of poet Sikandar Abu Zafar. Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House-275/F, Road-27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm.

Reunion A reunion of old students of Moniza

Rahman Girls' High School and a cultural function will be held with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: School premises, Installation ceremony

The installation ceremony of the Rotary

Club of Dilkusha will be held with

Advisor of the Commerce Ministry

Barkatullah Bulu as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Rajmoni Isha Kha, Kakrail. Time:

Bapa rally

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organises a rally demanding a ban on the plying of old vehicles on the city streets to check air pollution. Venue: Shahbagh crossing. Time: 10.30am.

Khelaghar

Kendrio Khelaghar Asar will pay tributes to the memory of Poet Rabindranath Tagore on the occasion of his death anniversary. Venue: Rabindra Sorobor, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm. Painting exhibition

A solo exhibition of paintings by Sulekha Chowdhury will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till August 19 from 9.00am to 12.00 noon and from 5.00pm to

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'Alexander' and 'Sin City' Venue: Academy Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Venue: Natmondol, Time: 7.00pm

Theatre Arts and Music Department of Dhaka University will stage a drama titled 'Media Play' by Heiner Muller.

Charushilpi meeting A meeting of Chattagram Charushilpi Parshad, Dhaka will be held. Venue: 344, West Rampura (Opposite to Atithi Community Centre). Time: 4.00pm.

to UN activities lauded

UNB, Dhaka

Ibrahim Gambari, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, lauded Bangladesh's significant contribution to UN activities, including in the area of proposed reforms, at a meeting with State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar on Wednesday.

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to

the age of 54.